THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Several new techniques have been developed by ICAR Institutions for the development of Animal Husbandry & Dairying.

(b) The new techniques developed are being utilised through extension agencies. State Governments, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) etc.

(c) There is no evidence for continuous decline in the number of animals except a slight decline in the number of donkeys. In this regard, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments through the centrally sponsored scheme viz., Preservation and Development of Pack Animals.

Special Drive of Railways to fill the backlog of reserved seats for SCs and STs

2301. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Special Drive has been undertaken to make good the backlog in respect of filling up of the different categories of posts in the Railways with Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and women candidates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the present backlog and the targets contemplated for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The shortfall of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) vacancies in recruitment categories existing as on 30.6.96 on the Railways is as under:

	SC	ST
Group "C"	1010	1057
Group "D"	1251	1985

As per the Department of Personnel and Training's directives, a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched from 15.7.96 to wipe out the shortfall of SC/ST vacancies in recruitment categories existing as on 30.6.96. In the above Special Recruitment Drive, the following shortfall have been identified for clearance:—

	SC	ST
Group "C"	936	950
Group "D"	1183	1646

The Drive will be completed by 31.3.97. No Special Recruitment Drive has been launched for the recruitment of women.

Increase in Agricultural GDP

2302. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the real GDP in agriculture grew by 2.4 per cent in the financial year 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95;

(b) if so, whether the CSO has forecast that it will grow by only 2-3 per cent in 1996-97;

(c) if so, whether planners have pointed out that unless agricultural GDP grows by 4 per cent a year, it will not be possible to sustain an overall GDP growth by 7-8 per cent; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to introduce measures in agricultural sector during 1996-97 to get real GDP of 7-8%; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost (1980-81 prices) in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector during 1995-96 has been revised to 0.9 per cent as compared to 1994-95.

(b) Assuming a normal monsoon and keeping in view the past trend as well as the structure of relationships among the broad sectors of the economy, the GDP of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector at factor cost for the year 1996-97 at constant (1980-81) prices is expected to show a growth rate of 2.3 per cent.

(c) and (d) The average annual growth in the overall GDP has been targetted at 5.6 per cent during the 8th Plan terminating 1996-97. For the agriculture sector, the target has been set at 3.1 per cent. A higher GDP growth would require proportionately a higher growth in agriculture sector as well. The Government is implementing various central sector/centrally sponsored schemes to enhance the growth in agriculture sector.